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Letter dated 27 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the release of the "Djakova/Djakovica group" issued on 26 April 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

01-35519 (E) 010501 010501

Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the release of the "Djakova/Djakovica group" issued on 26 April 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the decision by the Serbian Supreme Court to release the 145 Kosovo Albanians of the so-called Djakova/Djakovica group. These persons were collectively sentenced in May 2000 to prison terms of between 7 and 13 years for acts of terrorism allegedly carried out during the NATO campaign in 1999.

This constitutes a further act by Belgrade to rectify politically biased sentences passed during the Milosevic regime. The European Union now expects Serbia to complete the review of the remaining cases as rapidly as possible, in order to correct the injustices of the Milosevic era. That would constitute another confidence-building measure, conducive to a reduction of tensions.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.